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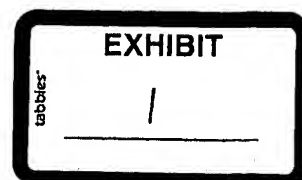
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**con-sum-er-ism** /kən'sōmə,rīzəm/ ▶ *n.* 1 the protection or promotion of the interests of consumers. 2 *often derogatory* the preoccupation of society with the acquisition of consumer goods. —**con-sum-er-ist** *adj. & n.* —**con-sum-er-is-tic** /kən,sōmə'ristik/ *adj.*

**con-sum-er price in-dex** (abbr.: CPI) ▶ *n.* an index of the variation in prices paid by typical consumers for retail goods and other items.

**con-sum-er re-search** ▶ *n.* the investigation of the needs and opinions of consumers, esp. with regard to a particular product or service.

**con-sum-er so-ci-ety** ▶ *n.* *often derogatory* a society in which the buying and selling of goods and services is the most important social and economic activity.

**con-sum-er sov-er-eign-ty** ▶ *n.* *Economics* the situation in an economy where the desires and needs of consumers control the output of producers.

**con-sum-mate** ▶ *v.* /'kənsə,māt/ [*trans.*] make (a marriage or relationship) complete by having sexual intercourse: his first wife refused to consummate their marriage. ■ complete (a transaction or attempt); make perfect: his scheme of colonization was consummated through bloodshed.

▶ *adj.* /'kənsəmet; kən'səmet/ showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete or perfect: she dressed with consummate elegance. ▶ *late Middle English* (as an adjective in the sense 'completed, accomplished'): from Latin *consummat-* 'brought to completion,' from the verb *consummare*, from *con-* 'altogether' + *summa* 'sum total,' feminine of *summus* 'highest, supreme.' —**con-sum-mate-ly** /'kənsəmətlē; kən'səmətlē/ *adv.* —**con-sum-ma-tor** /'kənsə,mātor/ *n.*

**con-sum-ma-tion** /'kənsə'māshən/ ▶ *n.* the point at which something is complete or finalized: the consummation of a sale. ■ the action of making a marriage or relationship complete by having sexual intercourse: the eager consummation that follows a long and passionate seduction. ▶ *late Middle English*: from Latin *consummatio(n)-*, from the verb *consummare* (see *CONSUMMATE*).

**con-sump-tion** /kən'səm(p)shən/ ▶ *n.* 1 the using up of a resource: industrialized countries should reduce their energy consumption. ■ the eating, drinking, or ingesting of something: liquor is sold for consumption off the premises. ■ an amount of something that is used up or ingested: a daily consumption of 15 cigarettes. ■ the purchase and use of goods and services by the public: an article for mass consumption. ■ the reception of information or entertainment, esp. by a mass audience: his confidential speech was not meant for public consumption. 2 *dated* a wasting disease, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis. ▶ *late Middle English*: from Latin *consumptio(n)-*, from the verb *consumere* (see *CONSUME*). —**con-sump-tive** /kən'səm(p)tiv/ ▶ *adj.* 1 *dated* affected with a wasting disease, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis: from birth he was sickly and consumptive. 2 *chiefly derogatory* of or relating to the using up of resources: tourism represents an insidious form of consumptive activity.

▶ *n.* *dated* a person with a wasting disease, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis. ▶ *mid 17th cent.*: from medieval Latin *consumptivus*, from Latin *consumpt-* 'consumed,' from the verb *consumere* (see *CONSUME*). —**con-sump-tive-ly** *adv.*

**cont.** ▶ *abbr.* contents. ■ continued.

**con-tact** ▶ *n.* /'kən,takt/ 1 the state or condition of physical touching: the tennis ball is in contact with the court surface for as little as 5 milliseconds. ■ the state or condition of communicating or meeting: Lewis and Clark came into contact with numerous river tribes | he had lost contact with his friends. ■ [as *adj.*] activated by or operating through physical touch: contact dermatitis. ■ a connection for the passage of an electric current from one thing to another, or a part or device by which such a connection is made: a one-way electrical contact between a metal and a semiconductor. ■ [contacts] contact lenses. 2 a meeting, communication, or relationship with someone: they have forged contacts with key people in business. ■ a person who may be communicated with for information or assistance, esp. with regard to one's job: Francie had good contacts. ■ a person who has associated with a patient with a contagious disease (and so may carry the infection).

▶ *v.* /'kən,takt; kən'takt/ [*trans.*] communicate with (someone), typically in order to give or receive specific information. ▶ *early 17th cent.*: from Latin *contactus*, from *con-* 'touched, grasped, bordered on,' from the verb *contingere*, from *con-* 'together with' + *tangere* 'to touch.' —**con-tact-a-ble** /'kən,taktəbəl; kən'tak-/ *adj.*

**con-tact cen-ter** ▶ *n.* an integrated and usually

automated communications system that coordinates all telephone and electronic contacts between an organization and the public.

**con-tact-ee** /'kən,takt'ē; kən-/ ▶ *n.* a person who claims to have been contacted by alien beings, esp. through an abduction.

**con-tact flight** (also *contact flying*) ▶ *n.* navigation of an aircraft by the observation of landmarks.

**con-tact lens** ▶ *n.* a thin plastic lens placed directly on the surface of the eye to correct visual defects.

**con-tact met-a-mor-phism** ▶ *n.* *Geology* metamorphism due to contact with or proximity to an igneous intrusion.

**con-tact-or** /'kən,taktər; kən'tak-/ ▶ *n.* a device for making and breaking an electric circuit.

**con-tact per-son** ▶ *n.* a person who provides a link for information or representation between two parties.

**con-tact print** ▶ *n.* a photographic print made by placing a negative directly onto sensitized paper, glass, or film and illuminating it.

▶ *v.* (con-tact-print) [*trans.*] make a photograph from (a negative) in this way.

**con-tact proc-ess** ▶ *n.* the major industrial process used to make sulfuric acid, by oxidizing sulfur dioxide in the presence of a solid catalyst and absorbing the resulting sulfur trioxide in water.

**con-tact sheet** ▶ *n.* a piece of photographic paper onto which several or all of the negatives on a roll of film have been contact printed.

**con-tact sport** ▶ *n.* a sport in which the participants necessarily come into bodily contact with one another.

**con-ta-di-na** /'kəntə'dēnə/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* -di-ne /-'dē,nā/ or -di-nas) an Italian peasant girl or peasant woman. ▶ *Italian*.

**con-ta-di-no** /'kəntə'dēnō/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* -di-ni /-'dēnē/ or -di-nos) an Italian peasant or rustic. ▶ *Italian*, from *contado*, denoting the peasant population around a city.

**Con-ta-gem** /'kōntə'zhām/ a city in Minas Gerais state in southeastern Brazil, west of Belo Horizonte; pop. 491,000.

**con-ta-gion** /kən'tājən/ ▶ *n.* the communication of disease from one person to another by close contact: the rooms held no risk of contagion. ■ a disease spread in such a way. ■ *figurative* the spreading of a harmful idea or practice: the contagion of disgrace. ■ a contagium. ▶ *late Middle English* (denoting a contagious disease): from Latin *contagion-*, from *con-* 'together with' + the base of *tangere* 'to touch.'

**con-ta-gious** /kən'tājəs/ ▶ *adj.* (of a disease) spread from one person or organism to another by direct or indirect contact: a contagious infection. ■ (of a person or animal) likely to transmit a disease by contact with other people or animals. ■ *figurative* (of an emotion, feeling, or attitude) likely to spread to and affect others: her enthusiasm is contagious. ▶ *late Middle English*: from late Latin *contagiosus*, from *contagio* (see *CONTAGION*). —**con-ta-gious-ly** *adv.* —**con-ta-gious-ness** *n.*

**USAGE** In practice, there is little or no difference in meaning between contagious and infectious when applied to disease: both mean, roughly, 'communicable.' There is, however, a difference in emphasis or focus between the two words. Contagious tends to be focused on the person or animal affected by the disease (precautions are taken with anyone who seems contagious), while infectious emphasizes the agent or organism that carries the disease. In figurative, nontechnical senses, contagious may describe the spread of things good or bad, such as laughter and merriment, or corruption, violence, panic, etc.: the chief's paranoia had a contagious effect on the officers. Infectious, in figurative senses, usually refers to the spread of only pleasant, positive things, such as good humor or optimism: Sharon's infectious enthusiasm for the project attracted many volunteers.

**con-ta-glum** /kən'tājəm; -jēəm/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* -gl-a /-jā; -jēə/) a substance or agent, such as a virus, by which a contagious disease is transmitted.

**con-tain** /kən'tān/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] 1 have or hold (someone or something) within: coffee cans that once contained a full pound of coffee. ■ be made up of (a number of things): consist of: borscht can contain mainly beets or a number of vegetables. ■ (of a number) be divisible by (a factor) without a remainder. 2 control or restrain (oneself or a feeling): she was scarcely able to contain herself as she waited to spill the beans. ■ prevent (a severe problem) from increasing in extent or

intensity: a new western policy to contain Bosnia. ▶ *Middle English*: from Old French from Latin *continere*, from *con-* 'altogether' + *tenere* 'to hold.' —**con-tain-a-ble** *adj.*

**con-tain-er** /kən'tānər/ ▶ *n.* an object that is used to hold or transport something: a microwave container. ■ a large metal box of a standard size used for the transportation of road, rail, sea, or air: a container ship.

**con-tain-er-ize** /kən'tānə,rīz/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] 1 (containerized) pack into or transport by containerized cargo. —**con-tain-er-i-za-tion** /'zāshən/ *n.*

**con-tain-er port** ▶ *n.* a port that specializes in goods transported in containers.

**con-tain-er ship** ▶ *n.* a ship that is designed to carry goods stowed in containers.

**con-tain-ment** /kən'tānmənt/ ▶ *n.* the act of containing something harmful under control or its: the containment of the AIDS epidemic. ■ the policy of preventing the expansion of a country or influence: the U.S. government's containment of communism as a global task.

**con-tam-i-nate** /kən'tamə,nāl/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] contaminate) make (something) impure: sure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance: the site was found to be contaminated. ■ *figurative* the entertainment industry contaminates the mind of the public | [as *adj.*] contaminated blood products. See *CONTAMINATE*. ▶ *late Middle English*: from Latin *contaminare* 'make impure,' from the verb *contaminare* (from *con-* 'together with' + the base of *tangere* 'to touch'). —**con-tam-i-na-tion** /-tānən/ *n.* —**con-tam-i-na-tor** /-nātor/ *n.*

**con-te** /kōnt/ ▶ *n.* a short story as a form of composition. ■ a medieval narrative tale, based on Latin *computare* 'reckon, sum up'. —**con-tē** /kōnt/ (also *trademark* Conté) ▶ *n.* hard, grease-free crayon used as a medium for powerful drawings in rough red conte. 1 cent.: named after Nicolas J. Conté (1755-1828) French inventor who developed it.

**con-tem-n** /kən'tem/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] archaic treat with contempt. ▶ *late Middle English*: from *contemnere*, from *con-* (expressing intensification) + *temnere* 'despise.' —**con-tem-n-er** /-tēm(n)ər/ ▶ *n.* one who treats with contempt. —**con-tem-pla-tive** /'kəntəm,plāv/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] look fully for a long time at: he sat on the carpet, contemplating his image in the mirror. ■ think about: if a trade war are too horrifying to contemplate, think profoundly and at length; meditate: rosely contemplating. ■ have in mind as a thought not certain intention: she was contemplating a gold mining venture. ▶ *late 16th cent.*: from *templare* 'surveyed, observed, contemplate the verb *templari*, based on *templum* 'placation.' —**con-tem-pla-tor** /-plātor/ *n.*

**con-tem-pla-tion** /'kəntəm'plāshən/ ▶ *n.* the looking thoughtfully at something for a long time: the road is too busy for leisurely contemplation scenery. ■ deep reflective thought: he would sit in his room for study or contemplation. ■ the state of being in contemplation. ■ religious meditation (in Christian spirituality) a form of prayer in which a person seeks to pass beyond images and concepts to a direct experience of the divine. ▶ *Middle English*: from Old French *contemplatio(n)-*, from the verb *contemplare*.

**con-tem-pla-tive** /kən'templativ/ ▶ *adj.* *expt* involving prolonged thought: she regarded the statue with a contemplative eye. ■ involving or given to prayer or religious meditation: contemplative edge of God.

▶ *n.* a person whose life is devoted to prayer, esp. in a monastery or convent. —**con-tem-pla-tive-ly** *adv.*

**con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous** /kən'tempə'rānéəs/ ▶ *adj.* occurring or occurring in the same period of time: the contemporaneous with Buddha. ▶ *16th cent.*: from Latin, from *con-* 'together with' + *tempus* (from *tempus*, *tempor-* 'time') + *-ous*. —**con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ly** *adv.* —**con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ness** *n.*

**con-tem-po-rar-y** /kən'tempə,rerē/ ▶ *adj.* 1 occurring at the same time: the event was a contemporary historian. ■ dating from the same time: this series of paintings is contemporary with the early style. 2 belonging to or existing in the present: the tension and complexity